AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the

application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.   (currently amended) A data processing device~~,~~

including computer-executable instructions stored on a physical

computer-readable medium, ~~adapted to be~~ installed in a data

processing server ~~adapted to receive primary data and to~~

~~transmit said primary data after application of dedicated~~

~~processing based on primary rules by control means~~, said device

comprising:

a first table storing sets of at least one primary rule,

called "primary metarules", in a parameterizable form and in

corresponding relationship to primary identifiers; and

management means ~~adapted to be~~ which is coupled to ~~said~~

control means of said data processing server and, on receipt of

auxiliary data representing operating parameters delivered by

said control means after reception by the data processing server

of secondary data, ~~to select~~ selects at least one of the primary

identifiers in the first table and ~~associate~~ associates said

auxiliary data therewith so as to define ~~said~~ dedicated

processes of said control means;

    wherein said control means applies said defined dedicated

processes to process primary data received by said data

processing server, said data processing server transmitting said

primary data based on said processing; and

    said first table is structured such that the number and

type of parameters of said at least one primary metarule are

modifiable without modifying the structure of said first table.

    2.   (previously presented) A device according to claim 1,

further comprising a second table accessible to said management

means in which are stored secondary identifiers each in

corresponding relationship to at least one selected primary

identifier associated with auxiliary data.

    3.   (currently amended) A device according to claim 2,

wherein said management means ~~are adapted~~, on receipt of said

auxiliary data, ~~to~~ determine whether the at least one selected

primary identifier corresponding to the type of said auxiliary

data is present in the second table, and ~~to~~ associate the at

least one selected primary identifier with new auxiliary data so
as to adapt said dedicated processes.

    4.   (previously presented) A device according to claim 2,
wherein certain selected primary metarules in the second table
are grouped into secondary metarules represented by secondary
identifiers.

    5.   (currently amended) A device according to claim 1, wherein said
management means comprise a multiplicity of management submodules each ~~adapted to~~ of
which manage the association of auxiliary data with at least one primary or secondary metarule
and ~~are adapted~~, on receipt of said auxiliary data, ~~to~~ determine which of said management
submodules corresponds thereto.

    6.   (previously presented) A device according to claim 2,
wherein said management means are adapted, on receipt of said
auxiliary data communicated by the server to add, delete or
modify primary or secondary metarules or auxiliary data in the
second table associated with said primary or secondary metarules.

    7.   (currently amended) A device according to claim 1,
wherein said management means and said tables are part of a

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metafirewall ~~adapted to manage~~ which manages a firewall

equipping said server.

8.   (previously presented) A firewall comprising a device according to claim

1.

9.   (currently amended)   A data processing method

~~consisting in applying dedicated processes based on primary~~

~~rules to primary data received by a data processing server so~~

~~that the received primary data is processed before being~~

~~transmitted by said server~~, comprising:

~~a preliminary step in which there are stored~~ storing in a

first table sets of at least one primary rule, called "primary

metarules", in a parameterizable form and in corresponding

relationship to primary identifiers; ~~and~~

on receipt of auxiliary data representing operating

parameters delivered by the server after the receipt of

secondary data, selecting at least one of the primary

identifiers in the first table; ~~is selected and~~

associating said auxiliary data ~~is associated~~ with said

selected primary identifier so as to define said dedicated processes; and

applying said dedicated processes based on primary rules to process primary data

received by a data processing server, and transmitted by said data processing server based on

said processing;

wherein said first table is structured such that the number

and type of parameters of said at least one primary metarule are

modifiable without modifying the structure of said first table.

10. (previously presented) A method according to claim 9,

wherein during the preliminary step, secondary identifiers each

in corresponding relationship to at least one selected primary

identifier associated with auxiliary data are stored in a second

table.

11. (previously presented) A method according to claim 10,

wherein on receipt of the auxiliary data, it is determined

whether the at least one selected primary identifier that

corresponds to the type of the auxiliary data is present in the

second table, and to associate the at least one selected primary

identifier with new auxiliary data so as to adapt said dedicated

processes.

12. (previously presented) A method according to claim 10, wherein certain primary metarules in the second tableare grouped into secondary metarules represented by secondary identifiers.

13. (previously presented) A method according to claim 9, wherein there are executed in parallel the selection of the primary or secondary metarules in the first table and the modification of the auxiliary data in the second table associated with the secondary identifier representing the selected primary or secondary metarules.

14. (previously presented) A method according to claim 9, wherein on receipt of complementary data communicated by said server, primary or secondary metarules are added to, deleted from or modified in the second table.

15.   (currently amended) A network data processing device, comprising:

a network data processing module; and

a management module coupled to said network data processing module, said management module comprising a first memory containing a first table, said first table ~~being adapted to contain~~ containing primary identifiers associated with at least one parameterized rule for providing direction to said network data processing module when one or more of [[(a)]] said

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primary identifiers and [[(b)]] said at least one parameterized rule are associated with at least one

parameter value;

wherein said network data processing module, in response to receiving said direction,

manages network data according to said direction; and

said first table is structured such that the number and
type of the parameters of said at least one parameterized rule
are modifiable without modifying the structure of said first
table.

16.   (currently amended) A device according to claim 15, said
management module further comprising a second memory containing
a second table, said second table being adapted to contain
containing secondary identifiers associated with at least one of
said primary identifiers and one or more respective parameter
values.

17.   (currently amended) A method of processing network data, comprising:

storing as entries in a first table, primary identifiers, each with one or more associated

parameterized rules;

receiving data comprising at least one parameter value; and

making a determination whether said parameter value can be associated with an existing

one of the entries in said first table;

when the determination is affirmative, making a combination of said parameter value and

said associated parameterized rules, and communicating said combination to a network data

processing module so as to direct the management of network data by said network data

processing module;

wherein said first table is structured such that the number

and type of the parameters of said associated parameterized

rules are modifiable without modifying the structure of said

first table..

18.   (currently amended) A method of processing network data, comprising:

storing as entries in a first table, first primary identifiers, each with one or more

associated parameterized rules;

storing as entries in a second table, secondary identifiers, each with one or more

associated second primary identifiers and one or more associated parameter values;

receiving data comprising at least one new parameter value;

determining at least one associable second primary identifier which said new parameter

value can be associated with;

storing said new parameter value in association with said associable second primary

identifier;

determining current associated parameter values and corresponding parameterized rules

for each of said secondary identifiers;

making a combination of said current associated parameter values and said corresponding

parameterized rules for directing said network data processing module; and

communicating said combination to a network data processing module so as to direct the

management of network data by said network data processing module;

wherein said first table is structured such that the number

and type of the parameters of said associated parameterized

rules are modifiable without modifying the structure of said

first table.